Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03237 290124Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

SAM-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /090 W ------ 105387

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3135

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3237

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR TH SN

SUBJ: KUKRIT AND LEE ENDORSE ASEAN SUMMIT

- 1. SUMMARY. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED JULY 27 AT CONCLUSION OF THAI PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT'S THREE DAY SINGAPORE VISIT STATED THAT PRIME MINISTERS LEE AND KUKRIT HAVE AGREED THAT AN ASEAN SUMMIT IS "TIMELY" AND THAT GROUNDWORK SHOULD BEGIN SOON. THEY ALSO AFFIRMED THAT THAILAND AND SINGAPORE ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO ASEAN, NOTED THAT THE ASEAN STATES HAD SHOWN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO LIVE IN PEACE AND AMITY WITH COUNTRIES OF INDO-CHINA, AND AGREED THAT THE MAJOR POWERS SHOULD TAKE INTO SERIOUS ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THE SMALLER NATIONS OF SEA AND THAT THE NATIONS IN THE REGION SHOULD "PAY REGARD TO THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE OUTSIDE POWERS IN THE REGION." END SUMMARY.
- 2. THROUGHOUT THE VISIT KUKRIT RECEIVED RED CARPET TREATMENT.
 DECORATIVE STREET BANNERS WERE DISPLAYED AND PRESS COVERAGE WAS EXTENSIVE. IN ADDITION TO CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS AND COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT SHEARES, KUKRIT MET LEE FOR LENGTHY PRIVATE TALKS. FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTICHAI HELD SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM.
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PAGE 02 SINGAP 03237 290124Z

- 3. IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS AGREED THAT A "SUMMIT OF ASEAN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT WAS TIMELY AND WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION TOWARDS GREATER COHESION, DYNAMISM AND EFFECTIVENESS" AND THAT GROUNDWORK FOR THE SUMMIT SHOULD BEGIN SOON. COMMUNIQUE ALSO "REITERATED THE FIRM COMMITMENT OF SINGAPORE AND THAILAND T THE GOALS AND SOLIDARITY OF ASEAN" AND NOTED THAT "THE ASEAN STATES HAD SHOWN THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND TO LIVE IN PEACE AND AMITY WITH THE COUNTRIES OF INDO-CHINA ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ONE ANOTHER."
- 4. COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS BELIEVED THAT THE MAJOR POWERS COULD "BY MINIMIZING OR INTENSIFYING THEIR RIVALRIES AFFECT PROSPECTS FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND PROSPERITY IN THE REGION." THEY AGRED THAT THE MAJOR POWERS SHOULD TAKE INTO SERIOUS ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THE SMALLER NATIONS OF SEA. NOTING THAT THE MAJOR POWEFS COULD PLAY "A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE REGION", THEY "WELCOMED ANY GENUINE CONTRIBUTION THAT THE MAJOR POWERS COULD MAKE IN THIS DIRECTION, PARTICULARLY IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN STATES. NATIONS IN THE REGION SHOULD, FOR THEIR PART, PAY REGARD TO THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF OUTSIDE POWERS IN THE REGION."
- 5. AT THE OFFICIAL GANQUET HONORING KUKRIT, LEE COMMENTED THAT "PERHAPS THE GREAT POWERS, WHOSE INTERESTS IN THE REGION ARE NOT ALWAYS IDENTICAL, MAY YET FIND IT IN THEIR SEPARATE INTERESTS TO LET US GO ABOUT OUR PEACEFUL BUSINESS, IN AMITY WITH ALL OF THEM.Z

6. IN JULY 25 REMARKS TO THE PRESS, KUKRIT COMMEENTED
ON THAI/US RELATIONS. "THE CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WE HAVE ENJOYED
IN THE PAST WILL CONTINUE INTO THE FUTURE, OF THIS I HAVE
NO DOUBT. BUT OUR COMMON INTERESTS NEED NO LONGER BE DOMINATED
BY ONE TYPE OF ACTIVITY ALONE." HE ALSO REMARKED THAT THAILAND'S
EXPANDING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION WITH SOVIET UNION
HAD "EXCELLENT PROSPECTS OF FRUITFUL RESULTS" AND THAT SOVIET
INTERESTS COULD BE SERVED BY RECOGNITION OF THAI ASPIRATIONS-"TO LIVE IN PEACE TO WORK OUT OUR OWN DESTINY FREE OF EXTERNAL
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PAGE 03 SINGAP 03237 290124Z

TUTELAGE."

7. ACCORDING TO WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, KUKRIT TOLD REPORTERS UPON RETURNING TO BANGKOK THAT LEE HAD PROPOSED BANGKOK AS THE ASEAN SUMMIT SITE. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT LEE HAD AGREED TO THE CREATION OF AN ASEAN FREE TRADE SYSTEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOLDRIDGE

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